

NSIA Remarks – Full Cabinet Feb 13, 2022

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- Multiple Ports of Entry are still experiencing blockages, s.39
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- Overall, social media continues to play an active role in the communication and organization of protesters across the country.
- Slow roll vehicle activity also seems to be an effective tactic now and is unpredictable.
- Threat picture with respect to Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE) remains stable and unchanged.
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Ottawa, ON:

- The mood of the organizers in Ottawa appears emboldened.
- City of Ottawa announced agreement with protest leader (Tamara Lich) that could lead to approx. 70 per cent of trucks and cars leave the residential areas in the downtown core over the next 24 hours and possibly relocate around Parliament Hill and/or the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway, upon meeting with the group tomorrow.
- Given the anti-government sentiment of Ottawa group, along with the decentralized nature of its leadership, it is unclear at this time the concurrence of other leaders in the group to the Agreement.
- Approx. 50-100 people on Parliament Hill and 1,000 people on surrounding streets.
 - Counter-protesters block convoy vehicles on Ottawa streets (“Battle for Billings Bridge” at Riverside & Bank; Bronson & Fifth; Argyle at Metcalfe and at Elgin)
- NOTAM remains in effect for airspace restrictions over Parliament Hill until 28 Feb.

Windsor, ON (Ambassador Bridge):

- Blocked since February 7th.
- As of 13 Feb, police enforcement actions continue with reports of arrests being made and vehicles towed. Windsor Police hoped to reopen the Ambassador Bridge and the roadway leading to it later today, but the latest reports indicate it remains closed.
- NOTAM extended to 14 Feb for airspace restrictions over the protest area.

ONTARIO RESPONSE TO THE BLOCKADES

- The Ontario Government declared a province-wide state of emergency in response to the ongoing blockade at the Ambassador Bridge and the Ottawa protests.
- Measures are that fines and possible imprisonment for protesters refusing to leave, with penalties of \$100,000 and up to one year of imprisonment for non-compliance.

- Ontario's Superior Court has granted an injunction to end the blockade at the Ambassador Bridge. It will come into effect on February 11 at 7 pm.
- The Ontario Government is planning on enacting legislation making it illegal and punishable to block and impede the movement of goods, people and services along critical infrastructure.
- Law enforcement, border services and municipal officials in Fort Erie are monitoring developments in relation to a planned protest at the Peace Bridge, Ontario's third-busiest commercial border crossing with the U.S., planned for the weekend of February 11 and 12.

Emerson, MB:

- As of 13 Feb, the blockade remains north of the POE. Some traveler traffic is able to enter Canada but commercial and other traffic is rerouted to adjacent POEs. RCMP will continue letting livestock vehicles through.

Coutts (Port of Entry):

- All services have been temporarily suspended at Coutts POE as of 14:00 EST 12 Feb, as protesters continue to block the highway leading to the POE. Commercial and traveler traffic is crossing at nearby POEs.
- NOTAMs are in effect over Milk River and Coutts until 16 Feb.

Vancouver, BC and Metro area:

- As of 13 Feb, no delays reported at Pacific POE by CBSA.
- On 12 Feb, several vehicles including a military-style vehicle broke through an RCMP barricade in south Surrey, BC, on their way to the Pacific Hwy POE.
 - Protesters force highway closure at Canada-US border in Surrey as rallies enter 3rd weekend.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Sarnia, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, the Blue Water Bridge remains open in both directions. Sarnia POE remains open with no delays reported.

Fort Erie, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, Fort Erie POE is open for commercial and traveller traffic, with only minor delays reported by CBSA.

Toronto, ON:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- NOTAM is in effect for airspace restrictions over Queen's Park in Toronto until 13 Feb.

- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Winnipeg, MB:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- NOTAM is in effect restricting airspace over the protest in Winnipeg until 14 Feb.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Fredericton, NB:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
 - Smaller crowd gathers for colder day 3 of Fredericton protest. [Link](#)
- NOTAM extended to 14 Feb for airspace restrictions over the protest area.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Cornwall, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, the Cornwall POE remains open.

Regina, SK and Regway POE:

- No major impacts are reported.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Halifax, NS:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Montreal, QC:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

IMVE:

- As per ITAC:
 - Individuals seeking to participate in a legitimate protest are distinct from actors espousing violent extremism.
 - The most likely IMVE-related scenario involves an individual or small group using readily available weapons and resources such as knives, firearms, homemade explosives and vehicles in public areas against soft targets, including opposition groups or members of the general public.
 - The increase in violent online rhetoric targeting uniformed personnel is likely not indicative of increased intent by IMVE actors to conduct planned, directed attacks against members of law enforcement. Uniformed personnel are more likely to be targeted because of their accessibility in the course of their duties. The terrorism threat to uniformed personnel remains MEDIUM.

- IMVE adherents may feel empowered by the level of disorder resulting from the protests. This could lead to individuals vulnerable to extremist messaging to commit isolated acts of violence.

International:

- Brussels braces for 'freedom convoy' protesting coronavirus restrictions. [Link](#)
- US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has increased its presence in Los Angeles ahead of Super Bowl LVI, with over 500 DHS personnel providing ground, air, and maritime support. A lead field coordinator and EOC are in place.

Maritime/CCG:

- As of 13 Feb, there is nothing of significance to report and risk levels continue to be low for protests on the water and disruption to marine traffic and port activities.
- In Atlantic Canada, MSOC/Transport Canada confirmed there is no intelligence to suggest any planned protest activity for near future.
 - Furthermore, it does not appear that the disruption around the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie is causing an impact in traffic delays, nor is it creating a spill-over to the Queenston-Lewiston POE.
- Disruptions on the Ambassador Bridge are not affecting operations at the nearby Detroit-Windsor Truck Ferry (DWTF) at this time.
- All 3 MSOCs will continue to monitor for vessel traffic anomalies and other reports and information on maritime activities.

Foreign Interference:

- RRM Canada has not observed any significant indicators of foreign state-linked interference as it relates to the "Truckers Convoy".
- Similar demonstrations have emerged across various democratic states inspired by the Ottawa demonstrations with indications of more planned in places like the US, today (Super Bowl) and in the weeks to come.
- A fake image of snipers at the Ambassador Bridge circulated on Twitter for a short time before being debunked. The image was originally from an unrelated context in 2013. This discussion overall has received limited engagement on Twitter.
- RRM Canada notes that a significant proportion of content and engagement online has been driven by organic activity by average users and citizens.

Financing:

- Crowdfunding sites are not a regulated business sector under the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act (PCMLTFA). However, should these sites transact with or through [businesses](#) that are subject to the Act, such as financial institutions, suspicious transactions may be reported.
- No spike in suspicious transaction reporting amid trucker convoy protests: FINTRAC. [Link](#)
- TD Bank freezes accounts that received money for Canada protests. [Link](#)

Policing Issues of Note:

- RCMP is assisting in various impacted areas across the country and is focused on areas where enforcement or the risk of escalation is most acute. RCMP does not hold contracts with tow companies nor can they be compelled to assist in removing vehicles at protest sites.

CSIS/CSE:

- No concerns at this time.

Social Media Analysis:

- A video has been circulating on social media of a roadside interaction between an OPP officer and occupants of a passenger vehicle who were stopped on their way to protest in Ottawa . [Link](#)
- Social media posts have been circulating showing photos of a counter protest on 13 Feb at intersection of Bank and Riverside in Ottawa. Counter protesters are shown blocking protester vehicles. [Link](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: (Derived from information available on open sources)

- The majority of the events have been peaceful.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is so far minor.
- There is currently no known end time for the demonstrations.

Ottawa, ON:

- Approx. 50-100 people on Parliament Hill and 1,000 people on surrounding streets. When safe to do so, police resources continue to intervene when protesters are seen bringing material support into the red zone. (as of 14:20 13 Feb).
 - Counter-protesters block convoy vehicles on Ottawa streets. [Link](#)
- NOTAM is in effect for airspace restrictions over Parliament Hill until 28 Feb.
- Fencing around the War Memorial was removed by protesters on 12 Feb. Discussions are ongoing in regards to re-erecting the fencing when conditions permit.
- On 12 Feb, Ottawa Police Service announced the establishment of an Integrated Command Centre (ICC) with the RCMP and OPP. [Link](#)
 - Police say protesters overwhelmed officers on Friday night. [Link](#)

Windsor, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, police enforcement actions continue with reports of arrests being made and vehicles towed. Open sources indicate that the Windsor Police hope to reopen the Ambassador Bridge and the roadway leading to it later today should conditions permit. [Link](#)
 - Police break up remaining protest at Windsor's Ambassador Bridge, make 12 arrests. [Link](#)
- NOTAM extended to 14 Feb for airspace restrictions over the protest area.

- The Ambassador Bridge remains closed at this time; the overall situation remains fluid and is ongoing.
 - Police move to break up remaining protest at Windsor's Ambassador Bridge. [Link](#)
- As of 12 Feb, OPP has taken back most of the blockaded area and continues to push the line of protesters away from the Ambassador Bridge. The Ambassador Bridge remains closed at this time. The situation is fluid and ongoing.

Sarnia, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, the Blue Water Bridge remains open in both directions. Sarnia POE remains open with no delays reported.

Fort Erie, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, Fort Erie POE is open for commercial and traveller traffic, with only minor delays reported by CBSA.
- As of 12 Feb, protest vehicles are parked along both sides of Niagara Parkway and underneath the Peace Bridge, which remains open. OPP has closed QEW ramps in the area, but operations at Fort Erie POE continue, with only minimal delays reported by CBSA.

Cornwall, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, the Cornwall POE remains open.
- As of 13 Feb, the Cornwall POE remains open, following a demonstration on 12 Feb. Cornwall Police, OPP, and Akwesasne Police were on site in response to approx. 75 vehicles and 100-150 people participating.
- A demonstration and blockade of approx. 100-150 people and 75 vehicles continues in proximity to the Cornwall POE, which is not impacted at this time. Cornwall Police, OPP, and Akwesasne Police are on site, and traffic is being allowed through in a single lane.

Toronto, ON:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- No major impacts reported from protest activity on 12 Feb. University Ave, including Queen's Park Circle, remains closed to traffic from Bloor St W to College St. The Gardiner Expy and DVP have reopened.
- In response to social media posts announcing a possible demonstration, Toronto Police Service have closed streets around Queen's Park Circle to traffic.
- NOTAM is in effect for airspace restrictions over Queen's Park in Toronto until 13 Feb.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Winnipeg, MB:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- Protests at MB legislative building continue including a counter protest, with no major incidents reported.

- NOTAM is in effect restricting airspace over the protest in Winnipeg until 14 Feb.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Emerson, MB:

- As of 13 Feb, the blockade remains north of the POE. Some traveler traffic is able to enter Canada but commercial and other traffic is rerouted to adjacent POEs. RCMP will continue letting livestock vehicles through.
- As of 12 Feb, RCMP reports the blockade with approx. 50 continues near Emerson POE. [Link](#)

Regina, SK and Regway POE:

- No major impacts are reported.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Coutts (Port of Entry) and Edmonton, AB:

- All services have been temporarily suspended at Coutts POE as of 14:00 EST 12 Feb, as protesters continue to block the highway leading to the POE. Commercial and traveler traffic is crossing at nearby POEs.
- NOTAMs are in effect over Milk River and Coutts until 16 Feb.

Fredericton, NB:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
 - Smaller crowd gathers for colder day 3 of Fredericton protest. [Link](#)
- NOTAM extended to 14 Feb for airspace restrictions over the protest area.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.
- As of 12 Feb, protest activity is occurring in Fredericton outside the NB legislature, with an estimated 150-200 protesters. Enforcement activity has been successful in mitigating intended gridlock.

Halifax, NS:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.
- Halifax police have erected barricades to prevent convoy access to port facilities. CCG assesses risk as low for protests on the water and disruption to marine traffic and port activities.
 - Dozens gather at vaccine mandate rallies in Halifax. [Link](#)

Vancouver, BC and Metro area:

- As of 13 Feb, no delays reported at Pacific POE by CBSA. On 12 Feb, several vehicles including a military-style vehicle broke through an RCMP barricade in south Surrey, BC, on their way to the Pacific Hwy POE.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.
- As of 07:00 EST 13 Feb, the highway and local roadways leading to/from the Pacific Highway remains restricted to traffic as RCMP have secured the area. Two vehicles and 4-6

protesters remain just off the POE property, blocking all southbound lanes. Approx. 50-60 protesters remain located at 4th Ave, approx. 1km north of the POE.

- Pacific Highway POE has suspended services and traffic is being redirected to other POEs.
 - Protesters force highway closure at Canada-US border in Surrey as rallies enter 3rd weekend. [Link](#)
- As of 13:00 EST, a demonstration continues near the Pacific Hwy POE, with approx. 150-200 participants. There is currently no impact to CBSA operations. RCMP have set up multiple checkpoints to control access to and from the POE.

Montreal, QC:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.
- Montreal police report the protest and march at Jarry Park was peaceful with no incidents of violence reported.

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A. Windsor: You may wish to ask Ministers Mendicino and Alghabra to provide an update on strategic enforcement activities that took place today.

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➤ Commissioner Brenda Lucki of the RCMP to provide an update on the law enforcement situation in the city of Ottawa and the status of the OPS Plan.

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Deputy Minister Stewart for the latest development coming from a protest organizer related to possibly moving trucks from part of the downtown core.